



August 2017

# Horseneck Beach State Reservation

5 John Reed Road, Westport

(508) 636-8816

[horseneck.beach@state.ma.us](mailto:horseneck.beach@state.ma.us)

Park Website: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/region-south/horseneck-beach-state-reservation.html>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Horseneck Point Life Saving Station (12-4pm)	3 Creature Feature (10am-noon)  Beachcomber Scavenger Hunt (2-3pm)	4 Creature Feature (10am-noon)  Beach Exploration: Intertidal Zone (2-3pm)	5 Life Saving Station (12-4pm)  Creature Feature (2:30-3:30pm)  Evening Beach Ramble (5-6pm)  Night Hike (8-9:15pm)
6 Sand Science (10-11am)  Crab Hunt (1-2pm)  Life Saving Station (12-4pm)  Gooseberry Island: Changes Through Time (3-4pm)	7	8	9 Horseneck Point Life Saving Station (12-4pm)	10 Creature Feature (10am-noon)  Beachcomber Scavenger Hunt (2-3pm)	11 Creature Feature (10am-noon)  Beach Exploration: Beach Geology (2-3pm)	12 <i>Family Sand Sculpture Festival!</i> (10am – 3pm)  Life Saving Station (12-4pm)
13 <i>Family Sand Sculpture Festival! RAIN DATE</i> (10am – 3pm)  Life Saving Station (12-4pm)	14	15	16 Horseneck Point Life Saving Station (12-4pm)	17	18 Shark Tales (10am-11am)  Beach Exploration: Beach Habitats (2-3pm)	19 Life Saving Station (12-4pm)  Creature Feature (2:30-3:30pm)  Evening Beach Ramble (5-6pm)  Night Hike (8-9:15pm)
20 Gooseberry Island: Changes Through Time (8-9am)  Sand Science (10:30am-11:30am)  Life Saving Station (12-4pm)  Crab Hunt (1-2pm)	21	22	23 Horseneck Point Life Saving Station (12-4pm)	24 Creature Feature (10am-noon)  Beachcomber Scavenger Hunt (2-3pm)	25 Creature Feature (10am-noon)  Beach Exploration: Sand Science (2-3pm)	26 Life Saving Station (12-4pm)  Shark Tales (2-3:00pm)  Evening Beach Ramble (5-6pm)  Night Hike (8-9:15pm)

<b>27</b> <b>Gooseberry Island:</b> <b>Changes Through</b> <b>Time (10-11am)</b>  <b>Life Saving Station</b> (12-4pm)  <b>Sand Science</b> (2:30-3:30pm)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>Horseneck Point Life</b> <b>Saving Station</b> (12-4pm)	<b>31</b>  <b>Creature Feature</b> (10am-noon)  <b>Beachcomber</b> <b>Scavenger Hunt</b> (2-3pm)		
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## Program Descriptions

### Things to Know Before You Go!

- All programs are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.
- All children must be accompanied by an adult.
- Reasonable accommodations are available upon advance request.
- Dress for the weather; bring sunscreen, bug spray, water and a snack.
- **Rain cancels most programs**; call ahead to confirm (508) 636-8817.
- Please note, from April 1 to September 15 **dogs and other pets are not authorized on the beach**, per DCR regulations, with the exception of service animals.
- A daily parking fee of \$13 MA Vehicle, \$20 non-MA Vehicle.
- Information about our annual ParksPass can be found here <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/massparks/passes-and-fees/buy-parks-pass-dcr-generic.html>. Seniors (62+, MA resident) can get a lifetime MassParks Senior Pass for \$10 at the Park Headquarters.

### ***Family Sand Sculpture Festival!***

**August 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00am – 3:00pm**

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Horseneck Beach State Reservation will teem with creativity and excitement. Returning champion sculptors and children with pails alike will converge to create and compete for fun, glory, and prizes. For the seventh year in a row the Sand Sculpture Festival will showcase casual fun and exceptional talent, and 2017 promises to be better than ever. There are four categories applicable; Sand Fleas (ages 6-12), Sand Hoppers (ages 13-17), Sand Shapers (ages 18+), and this year we are incorporating a Family category, that way mom and dad can help, too! All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Rain date: Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Registration at the main boardwalk opens at 10:00am and runs until 11:00am. However, all contestants should arrive to the beach as early as possible, since the parking lot can be filled to capacity by noon. Construction of the sand sculptures will start when the team is registered and will finish at 2:00pm. Judging and prize distribution will take place from 2:00-3:00pm. Sand and salt water will be provided; participants are asked to bring their own pails, shovel, etc. Event participation is free, however there is a \$13.00 parking fee for in-state vehicles and \$20 for out-of-state vehicles. Only the first 100 contestants will be officially registered and eligible for judging. In-office/call-ahead pre-registration is recommended but not required. Please call (508) 636-8816 for more information or to pre-register.

	Prizes have been generously donated by community organizations and businesses.
<b>Evening Beach Ramble</b>	This is a great opportunity to explore Horseneck Beach as the sun is getting lower in the sky, the day's heat is fading and the evening is upon us. Each week, we will see where the beach takes and us explore what we happen upon, so join us for some fun at the beach! <b>Meet by the main access road in the middle of the Healthy Heart Trail.</b> Rain cancels.
<b>Creature Feature</b>	Learn about some of the creatures that live here at Horseneck Beach. Each week, we will focus on a different topic. <b>Meet at table set up at the end the main access road in the middle of the Healthy Heart Trail.</b> Rain cancels.
<b>Gooseberry Island Walk: Changes Through Time</b>	<p>Gooseberry Island has gone through many changes due to both natural disturbance and man-made disturbance. We'll explore those changes on a moderately strenuous hike around Gooseberry Island. The island has a path that runs through the middle of it and we'll also walk along the perimeter of part of the island. The terrain can be difficult, so please wear supportive shoes, wear sunscreen and bring water. Program is best suited for adults and older children. Rain cancels.</p> <p><b>Meet at the Gooseberry Island Parking Lot by the gate.</b> Gooseberry Island is located just past the entrance to Horseneck Beach State Reservation. Follow Route 88 all the way to the end (it is also called Old John Reed Road), then take a right onto E Beach Road. Go Straight on E Beach Road and it will bring you right to the beginning of the causeway for Gooseberry Island. Follow the causeway to the dirt parking lot. There is no parking fee; however parking is limited and available on a first come, first served basis. You can also park before the causeway and walk over to the Gooseberry Island Parking Lot. Rain cancels.</p>
<b>Beachcomber Scavenger Hunt</b>	Explore the ever-changing, dynamic landscape of Horseneck Beach. Search for objects of interest washed up on the shore and discover the lore and history behind your found items. All ages are welcome. <b>Meet by the main access road in the middle of the Healthy Heart Trail.</b> Rain cancels.
<b>Beach Night Hike</b>	Have you ever explored the beach at night? What happens when the sun goes down and the stars come out? Find out on this great hike along Horseneck Beach in the dark. Flashlights are not allowed! Children must be accompanied by an adult. <b>Meet at the camping area bathhouse. Park at the camping area;</b> let attendant know you are there for the Beach Night Hike with the Park Interpreter. There is no parking fee for this program. Rain cancels.
<b>Crab Hunt!</b>	What lives under the rocks on the shore? Come find out at Gooseberry Island as we search the intertidal zone for creatures, seaweeds, and more. We provide nets and buckets – or bring your own. Please wear shoes that can get wet.

	<p>No bare feet or flip-flops. Rain cancels.</p> <p><b>Meet at the Gooseberry Island Parking Lot by gate.</b> Gooseberry Island is located just past the entrance to Horseneck Beach State Reservation. Follow Route 88 all the way to the end (it is also called Old John Reed Road), then take a right onto E Beach Road. Go Straight on E Beach Road and it will bring you right to the beginning of the causeway for Gooseberry Island. Follow the causeway to the dirt parking lot. There is no parking fee; however parking is limited and available on a first come, first served basis. You can also park before the causeway and walk over to the Gooseberry Island Parking Lot. Rain cancels.</p>
<b>Sand Science</b>	<p>Explore more than what is on the beach surface. We'll learn the science behind the shells, seaweed, ocean and more! All ages welcome; there's something for everyone to learn. <b>Meet in front of the Horseneck Beach Main Building on the main beach (by the blue posts that hold up the shade shelter).</b> Rain cancels.</p>
<b>Beach Exploration</b>	<p>Horseneck Beach is part of a larger coastal ecosystem that includes not only the beach but also the dunes area, a nearby salt marsh and the waters of Buzzards Bay. Come explore the different zones that make up a sandy beach environment. We will also see how the coastal plants and animals interact together as a system. <b>Meet by the main access road in the middle of the Healthy Heart Trail.</b> Rain cancels.</p>
<b>Shark Tales</b>	<p>Are you afraid of sharks? Are you interested in learning more about these sea creatures? With this program, we learn where these strong negative emotions towards sharks come from, while promoting appreciation for how these animals affect our food chain and balance the delicate ocean ecosystem. Come participate in active games, puzzles, coloring activities – and ask as many questions as you can! All ages welcome. <b>Meet by the shade shelter picnic tables near concessions.</b> Rain cancels.</p>
<b>Horseneck Point Life Saving Station Open House</b>	<p><b>Horseneck Point Life Saving Station Visitor Center</b>  Open Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays 12:00noon to 4:00pm from June 21st to Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>.</p> <p>The Horseneck Point Life Saving Station dates back to 1888, when it was built by the Humane Society of Massachusetts, originally at the Westport Harbor entrance on the west end of Horseneck Beach. The station was a 16' x 34' simple shingled post and beam structure with a pitched roof; designed to house a 30' lifeboat named "Westport" and associated equipment. In 1894 it was moved to its present location at the end of East Beach near the causeway to Gooseberry Island.</p> <p>This important part of Westport's maritime history has been restored and preserved by the Westport Fishermen's Association through a long term lease with the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation's Historic Curatorship Program, along with incredible support from the local community. Through the Historic Curatorship program, some of</p>

	<p>DCR's unused but significant historic buildings are rehabilitated, reused and maintained by an outside party in return for a long term lease.</p> <p>While open, curators will be available to share information about the history of this Lifesaving Station. This year's special exhibit "Notorious Shipwrecks off Westport" is free and open to the public. Come and see wonderful photographs, information, and maritime treasures representing a heroic and historic timeline from the late 18th century through today. Co-sponsored with the Westport Fisherman's Association, <a href="http://www.westportriver.org/">http://www.westportriver.org/</a>. No parking fee. <b>The Life Saving Station is located at 241 East Beach Road in Westport.</b> Call with any questions or to set up a private tour date and time at <a href="tel:7742649200">(774) 264- 9200</a>. Rain or shine, as exhibits are indoors.</p>
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